

Re: Proceeding # 02-306

As Councilmember of City of Wasco, I urge your support of SBC Pacific Bell in their efforts to enter California's long distance market. In order for California consumers to benefit from a truly open and fully competitive market, every industry player must be eligible to compete fairly and equitably.

SBC Pacific Bell's entry into long distance comes at a time when the nation's telecommunications industry is in significant turmoil.

Competition in the industry is now the norm, and it is necessary for regulators to apply fair and balanced rules to all providers in order to ensure that competition is based upon investments, technology, and sound business practices.

It is my understanding that the FCC has granted approval for long distance in 23 other states, providing more than 141 million Americans with the benefits of a competitive telecommunications market. Now it is California's turn.

Sincerely,

Cherylee Wegman
Council Member
City of Wasco